

April 14, 1983

LR 57

and our security needs. The freeze says, now wait a minute, before you go ahead with putting in more nuclear missiles, before you spend more money on nuclear arms, before you go ahead with this strategy, we have got another idea. This idea is to propose to the Soviet Union that we establish a bilateral mutual freeze, stop right where we are at and start talking about reductions at that point, but let's not build up any further, let's stop at this point, let's freeze and let's go forward with reductions. That is what we are talking about. Now why is that not something we should consider? I don't understand all these individuals that want to build up, not recognizing that this step is in their best interest.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute. One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: The reason I say that is that if we do not offer the freeze resolution as an option, with the majority of people wanting to see this option pursued, the support for an arms buildup and the money it would take to build up our arms is not going to be there and it isn't there right now. People are very concerned about the amount of money spent on nuclear arms buildup. They want to try the freeze idea. So let's say that the freeze is proposed and it is rejected by the Russian leaders. What happens next? Well, those of you who believe through peace through strength that believe in an arms buildup have the ammunition to come back to the American people and say, they don't want to freeze, they don't want to stop the arms race, they want to go forward and under those circumstances many of us who support the freeze would say, you are entirely justified, now let's go forward with the amount of money we are going to need to match the Russians. Let's protect ourselves and let's go forward and do the job that we need to do. But until you make the offer, until you set that on the table, we are going to tell you you are missing an option that needs to be pursued and it is an option that I think would keep us safe and the world safe if we would only recognize that it has validity and could possibly be accepted, and I think we have to recognize that. I will talk on it further at a later point.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I am going to speak from someone who has gone the whole route, World War II, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War. Senator Wesely said we had two options, freeze or buildup. If you will look at my first handout, it says,